

TELEGRAM (Secret Cipher Procedure)

Tokyo, 23 January 1940
 Arrival: 23 " "

3 o'clock
 10 "

NO. 46 of 22 JanuaryU R G E N T

The minutes of the hearing show that none of the 21 Germans /T.N: REICHSDEUTSCHEN/ seized on the Asama Maru belongs to the active list of the German Armed forces. From the list of the seized it appears that the English were aiming at ship's officers and technically trained personnel and even a 55-year-old bedridden /man/ was seized. According to First Officer Fock, who had escaped seizure by hiding, the New York Standard Oil representative declared before their departure that according to a communication of the British Consulate-General passage for former German employees of Standard Oil /was/ unobjectionable.

As first step /I/ transmitted the facts of the case to the Foreign Minister by note and requested early communication of the decisions of the Japanese Government while emphasizing the illegal /contrary to international law/ nature of the British action.

Seek as maximum goal of further procedure freeing of those seized. Brought this thought to the Foreign Ministry here privately. Only step-by-step tactics promising with Japanese mentality, also corresponds to urgent advice of Ambassadors Os..... and Shir..... (groups garbled).

Foreign Ministry and Navy command are occupied at present with the interrogation of the Japanese captain and individual investigation. Spokesman of Foreign Ministry announced a sharp protest as a Japanese minimum measure at today's press conference. Representative of Navy Ministry delivered similar statement to Naval Attache'.

Japanese press and public express unanimously strongest sympathy for German seamen and indignantly reject English action. Japanese and American eye-witnesses of the incident vigorously sided with Germans. Even terror to Washington, Shanghai, Hsinking.

OTT

13 copies drawn up, of which:

- No. 1 to W. (Working copy)
- No. 2 " GFM.
- " 3 " State Secretary
- " 4 " Chief Auslands-Organization
- " 5 " B. RA. 1
- " 6 " Under Secretary of State for Politics
- " 7 " Under Secretary of State /last word illegible/

No. 8 to Director of Personnel.
 No. 9 to Dg. Pol.
 " 10 " Director W.
 " 11 " Director, Press
 " 12 " " , Cul.
 " 13 " Personal Staff (Jap) /parenth. material illegible/ 3 - 52
 Serial No. 3

Doc 4048-8

電 報 (秘密暗號法)

東京一九四〇年 (昭和十五年) 一月二十三日 三時
到着 二十三日 一〇時

一月二十二日ノ第四六號 急!

調査新聞ニヨリ、「浅間丸」上テ逮捕サレタ二十一
人ノドイツ人ノ中、一人モドイツ國防軍ニ現役ノ者
ガ居ナイコトガ判ツタ、逮捕サレタ者ノ名簿ヨリ、
英國人が高級船員ト技術的ニ教育ノアル人員ヲ狙ヒ
ソノ上ニ五十五才ノ病床ノ者ヲモ逮捕シタコトガ解
ツタ。カクレテキタタメニ逮捕ヲ免レタ一等運轉士
ハ「フオック」ノ述べタ所ニヨルト「ニューヨーク・
スタンダード」石油代表者ハ、出發ノ前ニ英國總領
事ノ報告ニヨレバ、スタンダード石油會社ニ今迄働
イテキタ「ドイツ」人ノ航海ハ何等心配ナル所ガナ
イト聲明シタ。

余ハ第一步トシテ外相ニ覺書ヲ以テ事實ヲ傳へ、英
國ノ行動ガ國際法ニ反スル性質ヲ有スルコトヲ強調
シテ日本政府ノ決定ニツイテ早ク通知スル様ニ願ン
ダ。

余ハ今后ノ行動ノ最高目標トシテ逮捕サレタ者ノ釋
放ニ努力シテキル、余ハコノ考ヘラ當地ノ外務省ニ
今イ所ハ内密ニ知ラセタ。日本人ノ心理ニ於イテハ

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漸次的戦術ノミガ有望デアリ、ソレハ又OS
及ビSHIRI(不明)大使ノ切テ忠告ニ適應シ
テキル。

外務省ト海軍主腦部ハ目下、日本人船長ノ取り調べ
ト個々ノ調査ヲ行ツテキル、外務省ノ「スポークスマ
ン」ハ今日ノ新聞記者團會見デ日本ノ最小處置トシ
テ強硬ヲ抗議ラヌルト報告シタ、海軍省ノ代表モ亦
海軍武官ニ對シテ同ジ聲明ラシタ。

日本ノ新聞及ビ輿論ハ一致シテ「ドイツ」船員ニ最
深ノ同情ヲ示シ、英國ノ行動ヲ憤慨シテ拒否シテキ
ル、コノ事件ノ日本人及ビアメリカ人目撃者ハ活潑
ニ「ドイツ」側ニ味方シタ、ワシントン、上海、新
京ハ同様ニ打電。

オツト

IPS DOC. NO. 4048 - ITEM 15

Exhibit No.
/Very Secret!/
Q - 6 - 5

TELEGRAM (Sec. Cipher Proc.)

Tokyo, 26 January 1940
Arrival: 26 " "

0950 Hrs.
1930 "

No. 62 of 1/26

Most Urgent!

Distributed

Reich
For the Minister

U. St. Sec. Pol.
Dir. Cult.
Dg. Pol.
? Stahmer

Ref. Telegram of 18th, No. 39 X)
X) Pol. VIII 53.

/T.N: pencil underlining in original/

As I hear confidentially, Japanese Foreign Ministry has ordered Ambassador Kurusu to request the /German/ Foreign Office to defer the planned visit of the Duke of Coburg until March or better April, since the time for preparation for reception of such a distinguished visit is inadequate and all the authoritative political leaders are too preoccupied with the Diet. Since special missions of foreign nations on the occasion of the celebration of the foundation of the Empire are not envisaged, Foreign Ministry requests that the Duke's visit be designated a friendship mission /TN: goodwill mission/.

Expressed /my/ personal concern to the authority that Japanese action might arouse serious ill-feeling in Berlin. I consider the deeper reason for this strange attitude lies in petty concern of the government here lest the sole appearance of Germany with a special mission should damage Japan's neutral position in the eyes of third powers. Add to this that Court Circles, greatly perturbed by the anti-British wave occasioned by the "Asama Maru", fear further increase of pro-German popular feeling from Duke's visit at the present moment. In support of these surmises stands the fact that, as I have heard in strict confidence, the Government was considering shortly before the Asama case giving the Duke a great welcome as a state guest.

Ambassador OSHIMA, too, indicates that the anti-British movement is the principal reason for sudden "highly unfortunate-in-form" withdrawal of Japanese Government from promise extended openly in Berlin. Objectively, however, he sees in postponement of the trip possible advantages for our policy, because anti-British movement promises to take full effect if it is not encumbered with suspicion of German influencing. According to information just received movement is spreading into broad party circles and might lead to serious struggles in the Diet in February and March, perhaps to the overthrow of the government. OSHIMA recommends postponement of the trip to April-May (group garbled), but to reserve the exact date.

I propose the examination of the following travel plan: Arrival in Japan delayed one week, immediate continuation of the trip to America and a good-will visit to Japan on the return trip. I should be grateful in any case for carrying out of STAHLER information trip.

/TN: In pencil at bottom of first page of original:
St. S. /State Secretary/

JAP

/TN: In pencil at end of typewritten text of second page/

Fuehrer's letter from publicity (?)
only on return journey

/1/ letter to Tokyo

Doc 4048-15

電報 (秘密踏査法)

東京 一九四〇年(昭和十五年)一月二十六日 九時五〇分
到着 二十六日 九時三〇分

一月二十六日ノ第六二號

大至急!

大臣宛

十八日ノ電報第三九號)ニ答ヘテ X) Pol VIII 五三

余ガ密カニ見ク所ニヨルト、日本外務省ハ來相大
使ニ、コルゴルク侯ノ予定ノ訪問ヲ三月或ハソレ
ヨリモ四月ニ延期スル様ニ、ドイツノ外務省ニ願
ム様ト命ジタ。何トナレバソノ様ニ高貴ナ訪問ヲ
歓迎スルタメノ準備期間ガ充分デナク、又、政治
的に重要ナ人々ハ何レモ試售ノタメニ余リニ多忙
デアルカラ。國家創立建國記念祭ノタメノ外國ノ
特別使節ニハ予意サレテキナイデ、外務省ハ侯
ノ訪問ヲ親善使節ト名附ケルコトヲ乞フ。
余ハ當局者ニ、日本側ノ準備ハベルリンデ重大ナ
懸念情ヲ呼ビ起スカモ知レストノ余ノ個人内情ト
ラサベタ。余ハコノ疑ナ態度ノヨリ深イ理由ハ、
ドイツダゲガ特別使節ニ出スコトハ第三〇ノ限
カラ見テ日本ノ中立的立場ヲ損スルカモ知レスト
云フ當業ノ政府ノ慎重ナ要請ニアルト者ヘル。

之ニ加ヘテ、「長岡丸」ヲ興機トセル反英ノ波ニ
 非常ニ當惑セル宮廷グループガ現在ノ時間ニ於ケ
 ル侯爵ノ訪問デ、親獨ノ國民感情ガ眞ニ昂揚スル
 コトヲ察レテキルノデアル。余ガ極ク内密ニロイ
 タ所ニヨルト、政府ハ長岡丸事件ノ少シ前ニ、侯
 ヲ國賓トシテ大々的ニ歡迎セントスル準備ヲ考ヘ
 テキタ事莫モ亦此等ノ推測ヲ支持スル。
 反英運動ヲ大島大使モ亦、明カニベルリンデ公然
 與ヘタ船東カラノ日本政府ノ不意ノ「形式的ニハ
 甚ダ不幸ナ」既退ノ主ナ理由トシテキル。客觀的
 ニハ彼ハ亦シ旅行ノ延期ハ我々ノ政策ニトツテ利
 益ガアルカモ知レヌト見テキル。何トナレバ、若
 シ反英運動ハ、ドイツ側カラノ影トイフ様態ヲ
 負ヘサレナケレバ、充分效果ガアル見込ダカラデ
 アル。唯今入手シタ情報ニヨルト、右運動ハ廣汎
 ナ政黨グループニマデ波及シ、二月及ビ三月ニハ
 議會デ激シイ斗争ヲ、恐ラクハ政府ノ崩壊ヲモ精
 スカモ知レヌ。大島ハ旅行ヲ四月一五月ニ延期ス
 ルコトヲ——（不段）促シ、肉麻ナル期日ヲ任
 意スル様ニト警告シテキル。
 余ハ次ノ旅行計畫ノ後計ヲ提案スル。一週同遊シ
 テ日本ニ到着、直チニアメリカヘノ旅行經緯、歸
 途ニ日本ヘノ親善訪問。シユーターマールノ情報蒐
 集旅行ノ實施ニ對シテ余ハ何レニセヨ感話スルデアラウ。
 オット